

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04591 201334Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 TFCE-00 /018 W
-----128556 201449Z /43/41

P 201318Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4022

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4591

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (HAMILTON, LEE)
SUBJECT: CODEL HAMILTON

REF: STATE 166571, DAMASCUS 4370, 4368, 4366

1. EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO CHANGES REQUESTED BY CODEL.
ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST DEPARTMENT DELETE EXDIS CAPTION ON
DAMASCUS 4368 AND 4370 AND MAKE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS
TO TEXT:

A. 4370: PARA 2 INITIAL SENTENCE SHOULD READ: "IN
CONSTRUCTIVE TWO HOUR MEETING WITH CODEL HAMILTON PRESIDENT
AL-ASSAD CALLED FOR..." THIRD SENTENCE SAME PARA SHOULD
READ: "HE FIRMLY REJECTED IDEA THAT PEACE MUST INCLUDE
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS." DELETE REMAINDER
OF THAT SENTENCE. PARA 3 MAKE CHANGES SPECIFIED BY CODEL.

B. 4368: PARA 10, INSERT FULL TEXT OBEY QUESTION IN PLACE
OF SENTENCE: "HE ASKED HOW HE COULD ANSWER HIS CONSTITUENTS."

2. RE DAMASCUS 4366, IF THIS CABLE IS TO MADE PART OF THE
PUBLIC RECORD REQUEST FOLLOWING CHANGES TO ACCORD WITH
CODEL'S AND EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS: (A) SUMMARY: IN
PENULTIMATE SENTENCE, CHANGE "WITHTUT ANY EVIDENT SUCCESS"
TO "WITH LIMITED SUCCESS"; (B) IN PARA 1, THIRD SE TENCE
DELETE PHRASE "BY AMBASSADOR DURING I ITIAL BRIEFING."
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3. EMBASSY AGREES THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AN OPENING IN
AL-ASSAD STATEMENT ON TRADE WHEN HE SAID IN PARA 8
DAMASCUS 4370 THAT A GOVERNMENT CANNOT IMPOSE TRADE ON ITS
CITIZENS. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, INTERPRETED AL-ASSAD STATEMENTS
WHICH FOLLOWED AS ALL BUT CLOSING DOOR ON ANY IMMEDIATE
COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF BELLIGERENCY:

"IF ONE COUNTRY IS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING COMMERCIAL
RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANOTHER THERE WILL BE NO TRADE." EMBASSY
FELT THAT IMPLICATION OF THIS STATEMENT WAS THAT
SYRIA WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN TRADE WITH ISRAEL, AT LEAST
IN THE SHORT-TERM FUTURE. WE DID NOT FEEL ASSAD HAD IT IN
MIND TO LEAVE SUCH A QUESTION UP TO INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS,
BUT AS CODEL POINTS OUT AL-ASSAD STATEMENTS ARE OPEN TO
INTERPRETATION AND WE THEREFORE WELCOME MORE POSITIVE
INTERPRETATION.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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